

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230785

43

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, EG

SUBJECT: US-EGYPTIAN JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION

REF: (A) STATE 220834 (B) CAIRO 8216

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE APPROVED PROPOSED AGENDA (REFTEL B). U.S. TEAM IS CURRENTLY MAKING LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF NEW HEALTH MINISTER AND HIS ATTITUDES AS THEY RELATE TO UPCOMING JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING.

2. AS YOU KNOW, U.S. SIDE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE IN POSITION TO MAKE COMMITMENTS ON SERIES OF 18 PROJECTS RAISED BY EGYPTIANS IN WASHINGTON (SEE LAST PARA OF REFTTEL A). RATHER, U.S. SIDE INTENDS TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR COOPERATION BY EXPLORING FURTHER WITH EGYPTIANS THE FOLLOWING: (A) RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (B) HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (C) HEALTH MANPOWER, INCLUDING MED-

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PAGE 02 STATE 230785

ICAL EDUCATION (D) DRUGS, BIOLOGICALS, AND MEDICAL PRO-

DUCTS (E) DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL. IN ADDITION, WE DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH SECTOR ANALYSIS AS A PLANNING TOOL. DR. EDWARDS AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN HAVING OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT EGYPTIAN FACILITIES WHICH RELATE TO JWG EFFORTS. IN THIS CONNECTION U.S. TEAM WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SITES OUTSIDE CAIRO, INCLUDING

CANAL REGION, WHICH MAY BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE JWG DISCUSSIONS.

3. RE ECFMG, DHEW HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH DIRECTOR OF ECFMG AND STATE/CU STAFF. IT APPEARS THAT ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IS FOR EMBASSY TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. IF APPROVAL IS EXPEDITIOUS, EXAM MIGHT BE GIVEN AS EARLY AS JULY 1975 FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY LATE APRIL 1975. EMBASSY IS IN BEST POSITION TO ADVISE ON TIMING OF SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT. WHILE DHEW WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ANNOUNCEMENT DURING COMING JWG MEETING, WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT ECFMG IS TWO-EDGED SWORD. WHILE IT WOULD FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EGYPTIAN DOCTORS TO TRAIN IN U.S., ESPECIALLY WHEN CLINICAL CARE IS INVOLVED AND MAY AS EMBASSY SUGGESTS ENHANCE CAIRO'S IMAGE IN ARAB WORLD, IT MAY ALSO LEAD TO MORE RAPID MIGRATION OF DOCTORS FROM EGYPT. THIS IS NOW A SENSITIVE SUBJECT WITH CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE LOST A LARGE NUMBER OF DOCTORS THROUGH MIGRATION TO U.S.

4. DR. EDWARDS AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE EAGER TO MAKE MEETING IN CAIRO AS PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE THAT EGYPTIANS INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FROM EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES AND MEDICAL EDUCATION. REPRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL SINCE WE HAVE ONGOING COOPERATIVE EFFORT RELATING TO FIELD OF REHABILITATION. EMBASSY'S HELP IN GIVING FURTHER ASSESSMENT OF EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES BEFORE U.S. TEAM'S DEPARTURE OCTOBER 26 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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PAGE 03 STATE 230785

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